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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
KE, PENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	

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7 .

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Office Action Summary	09/781,127	IAN RICHARDS JOY PALMER	
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Peng Ke	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-41* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application)
since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet.
37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific
reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 15,17-21, 23, 24, 29-31, 33-36, 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Keith (US 6,629,097).

As per claim 1, Keith teaches a method for identifying an individual's personal, human networking style and capabilities through the use of interactive, software-program games or tools (col. 16, lines 19-62).

As per claim 2, Keith teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said computer software acquires, captures, retrieves and displays information about a person's attitudes, behaviors and characteristics in relation to human networking with other individuals in an interactive, graphical form (fig 2. item: concepts, married, fifties).

As per claim 3, Keith teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said computer software contains design functions for managers to create a desired, networking framework for their subordinates (fig 2).

As per claim 4, Keith the method according to claim 1 wherein said computer software contains analysis and design functions for project management activities (col. 16, 35-46, col. 17, 7-18).

As per claim 8, Keith teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said computer software connects and displays the network analyses of multiple users within a team, group, department, organization, organizations or community in a graphical display of a multi-user network system (col. 19, lines 51-68, col. 20,lines 1-17).

As per claim 10, Keith teaches a method for providing guidance on personal, human networking through the use of interactive, computer software games or tools (col. 16, lines 19-62).

As per claim 15, Keith teaches a method of constructing a human contacts network model that is displayable through use of a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of information regarding a user (col. 18, lines 8-15);

constructing a user icon for display (col. 19, lines 38-50), the user icon based upon the plurality of information regarding the user (col. 42, lines 45-60)

constructing a first contact icon, the first contact associated with a first contact person (Fig. 4, item Johanna);

constructing a second contact icon, the second contact associated with a second contact person (Fig. 4, item Kiley);

linking the user icon with the first contact icon using a first relationship link, the relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a personal

relationship between the user and the first contact (col. 19, lines 51-68, col. 20, lines 1-18, fig. 4, item "twenties"); and

linking the user icon with the second contact icon using a second relationship link (fig. 4, item "San Francisco"),

the second relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a personal relationship between the user and the second contact (col. 19, lines 51-68, col. 20, lines 1-18).

As per claim 17, Keith teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the relationship currency information is an indication of a perceived level of mutuality (col. 19, lines 24-38, col. 21, lines 15-27; It is inherent the the person's job or age would provide an indication of level of a person's mutuality).

As per claim 18, Keith teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the relationship currency information is an indication of a perceived level of predictability (col. 19, lines 24-38, col. 21, lines 15-27; It is inherent that the person's job or age would provide an indication of level of a person's predictability).

As per claim 19, Keith teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the relationship currency information is an indication of a perceived level of knowledge (col. 19, lines 24-38, col. 21, lines 15-27; It is inherent that the person's job or age would provide an indication of the amount of knowledge a person has).

As per claim 20, Keith teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the relationship currency information is an indication of a perceived level of power and/or influence (col. 19, lines 24-38,

col. 21, lines 15-27; It is inherent that the person's job or age would provide an indication of the amount of power a person has).

As per claim 21, Keith teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the network model can be manipulated by the user graphically in accordance with various user selections (col. 19, lines 24-38, col. 21, lines 15-27).

As per claim 22, Keith teaches the method of claim 21, wherein the various user selections include a plurality of different network spaces (col. 19, lines 8-14).

As per claim 23, Keith teaches the method of claim 21, wherein the network model is displayed on a monitor to the user using the three dimensional computer graphics (fig. 1-D, item "result map space").

As per claim 24, Keith teaches a method of using a human contact's network model for multiple users of an organization, where the human contact's network model is displayable through use of a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a plurality of information regarding a first user within an organization (col. 18, lines 8-15);

displaying a first user icon, the first user icon identified with the plurality of information regarding the first user (col. 19, lines 38-50);

displaying a first contact icon, the first contact associated with a first contact person (col. 42, lines 45-60);

displaying a second contact icon, the second contact associated with a second contact person (col. 19, lines 51-68);

linking the first user icon with the first contact icon using a first relationship link for the

first user, the first relationship link associated with relationship currency information with

respect to a personal relationship between the first user and the first contact (col. 19, lines 51-68,

col. 20, lines 1-18);

linking the first user icon with the second contact icon using a second relationship link,

the second relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a

personal relationship between the first user and the second contact (col. 19, lines 51-68, col. 20,

lines 1-18);

inputting a plurality of information regarding a second user within an organization;

displaying a second user icon, the second user icon identified with the plurality of information

regarding the second user (col. 17, lines 34-50);

displaying a third contact icon, the third contact associated with a third contact person

(Fig, 6, items: Kiley, Johanna, Seth, and Rebecca);

displaying a fourth contact icon, the fourth contact associated with a fourth contact

person (Fig, 6, items: Kiley, Johanna, Seth, and Rebecca);

linking the second user icon with the third contact icon using a third relationship link for

the second user, the third relationship link associated with relationship currency information with

respect to a personal relationship between the second user and the third contact (Fig, 6, items:

Kiley, Johanna, Seth, and Rebecca);

linking the second user icon with the fourth contact icon using a fourth relationship link,

the fourth relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a

personal relationship between the second user and the fourth contact (Fig, 6, items: Kiley,

Johanna, Seth, and Rebecca); and

linking the first user icon with the second user icon using a fifth relationship link, the

fifth relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a

personal relationship between the first user and the second user (Fig, 6, items: Kiley, Johanna,

Seth, and Rebecca).

As per claim 29, Keith teaches a method of interacting with a human contact network

model, the method comprising:

Providing a first version of a human contact network model that includes a user icon that

provides information regarding a first person, a plurality of contact icons that provide

information regarding a plurality of other persons, and a plurality of relationship links that

provide information regarding a personal relationship between the first person and at least one of

the other persons (Fig, 6, items: Kiley, Johanna, Seth, and Rebecca); and

Modifying the first version of the human contact network model to create a second

version of human contact network model (col. 19, lines 24-38, col. 21, lines 15-27).

As per claim 30, Keith teaches the method of claim 29, wherein the first version of the

human contact network is modified to create the second version based on a perceived change in

behavior of the first person or of the other persons or based on a perceived change in the personal

relationships between the first person and at least one of the other persons (col. 19, lines 24-38,

col. 21, lines 15-27; It is inherent that if the person changes his address or his job, the network

perspective would change accordingly).

As per claim 31, Keith teaches the method of claim 29, wherein at least one of the relationship links is indicative of relationship currency information with respect to a personal relationship between the first person and at least one of the other persons (col. 19, line 51-64).

As per claim 33, which is dependent on claim 29, it is of the same scope as claim 17. (see rejection above).

As per claim 34, which is dependent on claim 29, it is of the same scope as claim 18. (see rejection above).

As per claim 35, which is dependent on claim 29, it is of the same scope as claim 19. (see rejection above).

As per claim 36, which is dependent on claim 29, it is of the same scope as claim 20. (see rejection above)

As per claim 39, Keith teaches a computer implemented system for interacting with a human contact network model, the computer implemented system comprising:

a user interface to display a first version of a human contact network model that includes a user icon that provides information regarding a first person, a plurality of contact icons that provide information regarding a plurality of other persons, and a plurality of relationship links, at least one of the plurality of relationship links providing information regarding a personal relationship between the first person and at least one of the other persons (col. 19, lines 8-37, col 19, lines 50-68, col. 20, lines 1-18); and

a user based network model editing function for modifying the first version of the human contact network model to create a second version of the human contact network model (col. 19, lines 8-37).

As per claim 40, which is dependent on claim 39, it is of the same scope as 30. (see rejection above)

As per claim 41, Keith teaches the system of claim 39, wherein at least one of the relationship links is indicative of relationship currency information with respect to a personal relationship between the first person and at least one of the other persons (col. 19, lines 50-65, col. 20, lines 1-18).

Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Horvitz et al. (US 6,657,643).

As per claim 11, Horvitz teaches a method for providing personal guidance and advice through interactive computer software tools that deliver said guidance in a human context through the use of a humanized, virtual coach (col. 2, lines 57-68).

As per claim 12, Horvitz teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein the virtual coach is a talking head (col. 2, lines 24-28).

As per claim 13, Horvitz teaches the method according to claim 11 wherein said computer software for personal coaching relates to organizational or management issues (col.3, lines 1-28).

As per claim 14, Horvitz teaches the method according to claim 11 wherein said computer software for personal coaching relates to personal issues (col. 3, lines 1-28).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in

section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the

manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-7, 26, 27, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Keith (US 6,629,097) in view of Hirata et al. (US 6,317,739)

As per claim 5, Keith teaches the method according to claim 1, however he fails to teach

wherein said computer software contains analysis and design functions for performance

management activities.

Hirata et al. (US 6,317,739) teaches a computer software contains analysis and design

functions for performance management activities (col. 5, lines 8-31).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Hirata et

al.'s teaching with method of Keith in order to allow user to manage large quantity of data for

management use.

As per claim 6, Keith teaches the method according to claim 1, however he fails to teach

wherein said computer software contains analysis and design functions for process management

activities.

Hirata et al. teaches a computer software contains analysis and design functions for performance management activities (col. 16, 35-46, col. 17, 7-18).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Hirata et al.'s teaching with method of Keith in order to allow user to manage large quantity of data for management use.

As per claim 7, Keith teaches the method according to claim 1, however he fails to teach wherein said computer software contains analysis and design functions for training and development activities.

Hirata et al. teaches computer software contains analysis and design functions for training and development activities (col. 16, 35-46, col. 17, 7-18).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Hirata et al.'s teaching with method of Keith in order to allow user to manage large quantity of data for management use.

As per claim 32, which is dependent on claim 29, it is of same scope as claim 7. (see rejection above)

As per claim 26, which is dependent on claim 24, it is of the same scope as claim 7. (see rejection above).

As per claim 27, Keith and Hirata teach the method of claim 26. Hirata further teaches wherein the training includes network management training based on management objectives of the organization (col. 16, 35-46, col. 17, 7-18).

Claims 25, 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keith
(US 6,629,097) in view of Shah et al. (US 6,243,451)

As per claim 25, Keith teaches the method of claim 24. However, he fails to teach
wherein access to different levels of user information are set by a method, the method
comprising of the first user selects the level of access available, and thereby the information
displayed, to the second user for the plurality of information with respect to the first user, with
respect to the plurality of relationship links with each first user contact, and with respect to the
plurality of information associated with each first user contact; and

the second user selects the level of access available, and thereby the information
displayed, to the first user for the plurality of information with respect to the second user, with
respect to the plurality of relationship links each second user contact, and with respect to the
plurality of information associated with each second user contact.

Shah et al. teaches a method wherein access to different levels of user information are set
by a method, the method comprising of the first user selects the level of access available, and
thereby the information displayed, to the second user for the plurality of information with respect
to the first user, with respect to the plurality of relationship links with each first user contact, and
with respect to the plurality of information associated with each first user contact; and

the second user selects the level of access available, and thereby the information
displayed, to the first user for the plurality of information with respect to the second user, with
respect to the plurality of relationship links each second user contact, and with respect to the
plurality of information associated with each second user contact(col. 11, lines 6-25).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Shah et al.' teaching with Keith's method in order to restrict the visibility of the user's data.

As per claim 9, which is dependent on claim 1, it is of the same scope as claim 25. (see rejection above)

As per claim 16, Keith teaches the method of claim 15. However, Keith fails to teach wherein the relationship currency information is an indication of a perceived level of trust.

Shah et al. teaches a method wherein the relationship currency information is an indication of a perceived level of trust (col. 11, lines 6-25).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Shah et al.' teaching with Keith's method in order to restrict the visibility of user's data.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keith (US 6,629,097) in view of Mosquera (US 6,505,202)

As per claim 28, Keith teaches the method of claim 24. However, he fails to teach further comprising interacting with the first and second users through interactive question and answer sessions and modifying the network model based on said interactive question and answer sessions.

Mosquera teaches a method comprises interacting with the first and second users through interactive question and answer sessions and modifying the network model based on said interactive question and answer sessions (col. 6, lines 58-68, col. 7, lines 1-14).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Mosquera's teaching with Keith's method in order to update user behavior over time.

Claims 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keith

(US 6,629,097) in view of Megiddo (US 6,559,863)

As per claim 37, Keith teaches the method of claim 29, however he fails to teach wherein

the second version contains a contact icon that was modified by a second person associated with

the contact icon.

Megiddo teaches a method wherein the second version contains a contact icon that was

modified by a second person associated with the contact icon (col. 5, lines 50-56).

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include

Megiddo's teaching with Keith's method in order to update user behavior over time.

As per claim 38, Keith and Megiddo teach the method of claim 37. Megiddo further

teaches each wherein the contact icon is modified in response to data communications over a

distributed computer network (col. 5, lines 50-56.

Conclusion

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to a network interface:

Dickinson (US 5,634,057) discloses: a place object display system having palce objects selected in response to a user identifier

Consolatti et al. (US 6,289,363) discloses: a navigation editor framework for building multimedia titles.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peng Ke whose telephone number is (703) 305-7615. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L Kincaid can be reached on (703) 308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Peng Ke

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